

# A DECORATIVE EXTERNAL CURTAIN ASSEMBLY AND SYSTEM FOR EXTERIOR DECORATION

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

4     1. Field of the Invention:

5 This invention generally relates to a novel decorative curtain assembly for  
6 application to the exterior of buildings and similar structures, and more  
7 particularly to a decorative external curtain assembly which is adapted for ease  
8 of application and removal to create a system of exterior decoration for  
9 application to the exterior of buildings that provides decorative and commercial  
10 displays in a manner that takes advantage of a full range of artistic expression.

## 11 2. Background of the Invention:

12 It is well known to hang flags and banners from a porch using poles during  
13 a Fourth of July celebration or from the façade of a retail store or restaurant to  
14 advertise a holiday sale. Such display arrangements, however, are limited by  
15 their ability to adapt the display to the structure variations in the façade of the  
16 building and thereby fail to provide a full range of possible decorative displays  
17 available for application to the exterior of a building.

18 In that regard, merely hanging a flag or banner from a pole or over the  
19 edge of balcony is quite a restrictive expression which does not consider  
20 application of fabric like materials to the varied recesses and surface features of  
21 the façade of a building and its ancillary exterior structures such as a balcony.

22 In addition to the foregoing noted limitations, known arrangements for  
23 supporting and attaching flags and banners, such as flag pole holders and

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1 grommet fastening, are limited in their application to the façade of the building,  
2 require support structures that anchor into the building and therefore cannot be  
3 easily or inexpensively applied to the building.

4 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a  
6 decorative, external curtain assembly for decorating the external facades of  
7 building structures that overcomes the deficiencies of the prior art.

8 Another object of the present invention is to provide a decorative, external  
9 curtain assembly for application to building structures to create a system of  
10 exterior decoration whereby building structures, such as houses, restaurants,  
11 retail stores, tents, apartment buildings and office high-rises, having facades and  
12 ancillary exterior structures, such as porches, balconies, eaves, gables, roof lines  
13 are decorated using fabrics and/or flexible sheet materials for display for any  
14 occasion such as during national holidays, festivals as well as for advertising  
15 purposes.

16 Another object of the present invention is to provide a decorative external  
17 curtain assembly and system of exterior decoration that is versatile in their ability  
18 to apply external curtains, such as, valances, flags, banners, advertising  
19 displays, to almost any type of exterior building façade.

20 Still another object of the present invention is to provide a decorative  
21 external curtain assembly and system that is simple to use and inexpensive to  
22 make and use.

23 One particular advantageous feature of the present invention afforded by

1 the easy of application of the decorative external curtain assembly is that it  
2 provides for a system of exterior decoration that allows for changes of exterior  
3 decoration to accommodate different seasons, holidays and even for an  
4 appropriate day or night look.

5 Another advantageous feature of the present invention is that the  
6 decorative external curtain assembly provides an easy and affordable basic  
7 design element of the system of exterior decoration for manipulating the look,  
8 mood and atmosphere of an exterior of a building as well as an associated  
9 exterior area, such as a courtyard, plaza or the like.

10 These and other objects, advantages and features of the present  
11 invention are achieved, according to one embodiment, by a decorative external  
12 curtain assembly for applying fabric material to an external facade of a building,  
13 the assembly comprising: a sheet of fabric material and complementary  
14 engageable fastener strips respectively applied to the sheet of fabric material  
15 and the external façade of the building for fastening the fabric material to the  
16 external façade of the building.

17 According to a further embodiment of the present invention, the  
18 complementary engageable fastener strips are made of VELCRO tape to create  
19 a temporary bond between the building and the fabric that is easily broken by  
20 pulling apart the VELCRO strips. The VELCRO strips are respectively attached  
21 to the building, for example, with any existing adhesive or hot glue and to the  
22 fabric material either by sewing or adhesive.

23 According to the present invention, there is further provided a system of

1 exterior decoration of a building having a facade, the system comprising: a  
2 decorative external curtain assembly for applying fabric material to an external  
3 facade of a building, the assembly comprising: a sheet of fabric material and  
4 complementary engageable fastener strips respectively applied to the sheet of  
5 fabric material and the external façade of the building for fastening the fabric  
6 material to the external façade of the building to create a temporary bond  
7 between the building and the fabric that is easily broken by pulling by pulling the  
8 fastener strips apart.

9 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 Figure 1 illustrates one embodiment of the novel decorative curtain  
11 assembly of the present invention applied to the external façade of a building  
12 comprising a porch on the front to a detached single family dwelling;

13 Figure 2 depicts the complementary engageable fastener strips, made, for  
14 example of VELCRO tape;

15 Figure 3 illustrates the application of further embodiments of the present  
16 invention applied, for example to a commercial business structure as a way for  
17 offering an easy and versatile means whereby small, franchise or museum  
18 enterprises can advertise and communicate changes in product, prices,  
19 decorations, and the like;

20 Figure 4 illustrated yet another embodiment of the present invention  
21 applied to a façade of temporary, outdoor structure such as a tent; and

22 Figure 5 illustrates still a further embodiment of the present invention as  
23 applied to a multi-story building having different types of facades.

1           DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(S)

2           Referring to Figure 1, one embodiment of a novel decorative curtain  
3           assembly according to the teachings of the present invention is generally  
4           indicated at 11 and illustrated as applied to the external façade 15 of a building  
5           17. In the illustrative example of Figure 1, the external façade 15 comprises a  
6           porch on the front the building 17, for example, a detached single-family dwelling  
7           or home. The decorative curtain assembly 11 is adapted to apply decorative  
8           fabric material 19, illustrated here as pleated fabric, to the external facade 15 of  
9           the building 17.

10           Generally indicated at 21 are complementary engageable fasteners, such  
11           as, for example, made of VELCRO tape or strips, that are used to attach the  
12           decorative curtain assembly 11 to the external facade 15. The complementary  
13           engageable fasteners 21 create a strong and yet temporary bond between the  
14           building and the fabric that is easily broken by pulling apart the VELCRO strips.  
15           The VELCRO strips are preferable and respectively attached to the building with  
16           any existing adhesive or glue and to the fabric material by either sewing or  
17           adhesive.

18           In Figure 1 the decorative fabric 19 is shown in the form of a valance with  
19           inverted box pleats, a short drapery hung at the top of a structure with the fabric  
20           folded equal manner and distance, by pressing the upper pleats towards each  
21           other and the under pleats pressed in opposite directions. The invention allows  
22           for a wide range of options for the decorative fabric 19 while the mechanics of  
23           the complementary engageable fasteners 21 allows for an easy and inexpensive

1 method of changing the decorative fabric 19 on an exterior façade 15.  
2 Options similar to the goals and versatility of interior curtains are available  
3 by altering the fabric weight, content, weave, color and drapery (folds of fabric),  
4 with auxiliary embellishments as part of its basic design such as piping, fringe,  
5 ties, tassels; or separate additions attached with at appropriate placement, using  
6 glue or VELCRO, such additional attachments including, for example, bows,  
7 bells, banners and communications can accent the beauty and look of the of  
8 building 17.

9 Possible artistic options include sun and weather resistant fabric, often  
10 used in standard awnings, of colors accenting the house; or seasonal changes  
11 such as a light fabric of cotton or linen in light colors of white, beige, tan or blue  
12 in solids or stripes draped in a swage or generous flounce for summer  
13 decoration. Additional decorations of piping, cording, tassels, fringe or even  
14 novelty decorations such as seashells, etc., can either be part of the basic  
15 design or an additional option added with a VELCRO attachment. The look of the  
16 exterior area can easily be changed for evening; an example decoration would  
17 be a loose weave metallic fabric.

18 Autumn lends itself to heavier fabric of colors of gold and oranges or  
19 perhaps a forest green with a metallic gold edging. The exterior curtain can  
20 easily be changed for Halloween decorations; an example would be a synthetic  
21 mesh looking like spider webs with scary auxiliary decorations.

22 Again, ease of application allows for appropriate changes for holiday  
23 decorations. A red, white and blue theme for Memorial Day and Fourth of July

1 can be designed from traditional flag material typically nylon, or a cotton or  
2 cotton blend fabric allowing for greater range of print options. Christmas  
3 decoration possibilities include traditional, cultural and innovative expression of  
4 the holiday. Fabric of dense weave with colors of deep reds, greens and gold in  
5 solids or traditional seasonal patterns can be embellished with fringe, tassels and  
6 ties; polyester white chiffon can be draped in a swage tied with red bows;  
7 nostalgic, religious or humorous decorations are all appropriate for this holiday.

8 Artistic expression of a current cultural fad such as a denim, the diversity  
9 of our ethnic culture or sporting events using a variety of fabrics, colors, drapery  
10 (folds of fabric), appropriate words such as "HAPPY HOLIDAYS", "WELCOME",  
11 "GO TEAM"; auxiliary embellishments as part of its basic design or as additions  
12 attached with appropriate Velcro placement including the possibility of decorative  
13 lights of safe voltage and placement are all in the range of this application.

14 Referring to Figure 2, the complementary engageable fasteners 21,  
15 shown as seen from standing on the porch looking out, comprise complementary  
16 engageable fastener strips 21a, 21b, respectively attached to the fabric and the  
17 building, for affixing the decorative curtain assembly 11 to the external facade  
18 15. The strips 21a, 21b preferably comprise, for example, VELCRO tape or  
19 strips having co-acting miniature hooks and loops formed of relatively rigid  
20 filament material. The decorative curtain assembly 11 is affixed to the building  
21 using the action of the VELCRO strips 21a, 21b which adhere to together to  
22 create a strong attachment and yet temporary bond that is easily broken by  
23 simply pulling the two strips 21a, 21b apart.

1 As is well known, VELCRO the co-acting miniature hooks and loops, on  
2 separate side of the VELCRO strip, engage one another so that the VELCRO  
3 strips adhere together using the same action that is employed when a burr  
4 attaches itself to a piece of clothing or the like. One side of the strip 21a of the  
5 VELCRO tape is attached to the external façade 15 of the building 17 at the  
6 appropriate location, using, for example, any suitable existing adhesive or hot  
7 glue; while the other side of the strip 21b of VELCRO tape is either sewn or  
8 appropriately adhered, by hot glue or convention adhesive, in this instance, to  
9 top edge of the decorative fabric material 19.

10 In the embodiment illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, one of the Velcro strips  
11 21a is attached to an upper inside horizontal surface 25 of the porch 15 that run  
12 adjacent the ceiling of the porch and the other of the Velcro strips 21b is  
13 attached to the decorative fabric material 19 at least along one edge 23 thereof.  
14 The inventor has found that a Velcro strip of about two inches wide is sufficient  
15 for affixing the decorative fabric material 19 to the external façade 15 of the  
16 building 17.

17 Figure 3 illustrates further embodiments of the decorative external curtain  
18 assembly 11 wherein the decorative fabric comprises an advertising banner 27  
19 applied to an eaves of a commercial building 26, such as a restaurant, retail  
20 store or the like. Also shown in Figure 3 is another embodiment of the decorative  
21 external curtain assembly 11 wherein the decorative fabric comprises a flag or  
22 banner 29 applied to an eaves of a commercial or residential building 28. This  
23 invention allows for the commercial communication to be easily and

1 inexpensively changed throughout the year and applicable for a wide range of  
2 commercial uses including a small individual business, mass reproduction for a  
3 franchise or an artistic expression at a museum.

4 Figure 4 illustrates yet another embodiment of the present invention  
5 applied to a façade of temporary, outdoor structure such as a tent. Because this  
6 structure is often used for special occasions, and the diversity of occasions is  
7 increased because it is often a rental structure, the decorative exterior curtain  
8 assembly can be adapted for ease and versatility of decorations similar to the  
9 artistic expressions conveyed for Figure 1. One side of the required VELCRO  
10 strip is adhered to the structure while the other side of the VELCRO strip is used  
11 to attached a variety of decorative items such as fabrics of different weights,  
12 weaves, colors, drapes and lengths combined with fringe, piping, ties, tassels to  
13 create the desired look, mood and atmosphere for the event along with auxiliary  
14 decoration such as wedding bells, reflective stars, lights, etc.

15 As shown in Figure 4, one strip of the VELCRO tape 21a is attached to  
16 the appropriate edge of the temporary structure 33 and the decorative fabric 19  
17 is draped to form three overlapping swags 77 with jabots 88 at each side. This  
18 design for the decorative fabric 19 can be constructed so each section; jabot 88,  
19 swag 77a and swags 77b; is permanently attached to each other creating a fixed  
20 length. The other strip of the Velcro tape 21b is adhered across the entire top  
21 edge of the decorative fabric 19 that faces the outside, attaching properly to  
22 Velcro tape 21a.

23 This particular design could also be constructed in the following way. The

1 three swags 77 and the jabot 88 that form the decorative fabric 19 would each  
2 be constructed separately. Along the top edge of each swag 77 and jabot 88  
3 Velcro tape 21b would be attached to the fabric side facing outward.

4 On the right and left sides of swags 77b would have a strip of Velcro tape  
5 21a attached parallel to the Velcro tape 21b on the side of the fabric facing  
6 inward. The overlap of each section could be manipulated so the length of the  
7 decorative fabric 19 could vary to fit the structure. In this embodiment of the  
8 invention, although a temporary outdoor structure such as a tent 33 comprises  
9 the building, the goals and versatility expressed in the description relating to  
10 Figure 1 apply to this embodiment such as are available by altering the fabric  
11 weight, content, weave, color and drapery (folds of fabric), with auxiliary  
12 embellishments as part of its basic design such as piping, fringe, ties, tassels; or  
13 separate additions attached with appropriate Velcro placement, for example  
14 bows, bells, banners and communications such as "CONGRATULATIONS",  
15 "BEST OF LUCK", "ALUMNUS";

16 Figure 5 shows the application of various embodiments of the present  
17 invention applied to the balconies of a multi-story building such as an apartment  
18 building, office building or hotel. This application allows the possibility of  
19 apartment dwellers and occupying commercial entities for above mentioned  
20 expression.

21 Although the present invention has been described in terms of specific  
22 exemplary embodiments, it will be appreciated that various modifications and  
23 alterations might be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the

I spirit and scope of the invention as specified in the following claims.